

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A nonwoven material comprising:
 - a) a web of substantially continuous A/B bicomponent crimped fibers,
 - b) the web having a percentage difference between a formation index of a top side of the web and a formation index of a wire side of the web of less than about 11%.

2. (original) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein:
 - a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or wherein
 - b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

3. (original) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein:
 - a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or wherein
 - b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

4. (original) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein:
 - a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
 - b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

5. (original) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein:
 - a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
 - b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

6. (currently amended) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.35 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.12 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.08 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~ and
- v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.07 inches in the Z axis.

7. (currently amended) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.35 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.12 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.08 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~ and
- v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.07 inches in the Z axis.

8. (currently amended) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 30.27 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~

vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and

vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

9. (currently amended) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~

ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.03 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.15 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~

vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and

vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

10. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 1 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 9.0 dpf.

11. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 10 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 6.0 dpf.

12. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 10 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 5.0 dpf.

13. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 11 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 4.2 dpf.

14. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 12 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 3.3 dpf.

15. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 10 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 3.4 dpf to about 4.2 dpf.

16. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 15 wherein the fibers have a substantially white color.

17. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 16 wherein the fibers have a TiO₂ percentage of about 0.1% to about 5%.

18. (original) The nonwoven material of Claim 17 wherein the fibers have a TiO₂ percentage of about 2%.

19. (original) The nonwoven material according to Claim 1 wherein the fibers of the nonwoven web are integrally bonded.

20. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to Claim 2 wherein:

a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or wherein

b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire

side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

21. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to Claim 20 wherein:

a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein

b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

22. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to Claim 21 wherein:

a) the web having a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein

b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to Claim ~~23-2~~ wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.35 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~

ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.12 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~

iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~

iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.08 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~ and

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.07 inches in the Z axis.

25. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to

Claim ~~24-20~~ wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 30.27 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- v) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 31.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- vi) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and
- vii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

26. (currently amended) The nonwoven ~~web~~ material according to Claim ~~25-21~~ wherein the nonwoven material is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 35.03 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- v) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 37.15 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- vi) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and
- vii) the web which has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

27. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 26 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 6.0 dpf.

28. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 27 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 4.2 dpf.

29. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 28 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 0.1 dpf to about 3.3 dpf.

30. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 27 wherein the fibers have a fiber denier of between about 3.4 dpf to about 4.2 dpf.

31. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 26 wherein the fibers have a substantially white color.

32. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 31 wherein the fibers have a TiO₂ percentage of about 0.1% to about 5%.

33. (currently amended) The ~~web-nonwoven material~~ of Claim 32 wherein the fibers have a TiO₂ percentage of about 2%.

34. (currently amended) The nonwoven-~~web~~ material according to Claim 26 wherein the fibers of the nonwoven web are integrally bonded.

35. (original) A nonwoven web comprising:
a) substantially continuous A/B bicomponent crimped fibers;
b) the web having a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or
c) the web having a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

36. (original) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein:

- a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or wherein
- b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

37. (original) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein:

- a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
- b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

38. (original) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein:

- a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
- b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

39. (canceled)

40. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.35 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.12 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.08 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~ and
- v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.07 inches in the Z axis.

41. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 30.27 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and
- vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

42. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 35 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.03 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.15 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~
- vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and

vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

43. (original) A nonwoven web comprising:

- a) substantially continuous A/B bicomponent crimped fibers;
- b) the web having a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk to about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, or
- c) the web having a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a bulk of over about 0.1 inches in the Z axis.

44. (original) The nonwoven web according to Claim 43 wherein:

- a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
- b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

45. (original) The nonwoven web according to Claim 43 wherein:

- a) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of up to 1.5 osy, or wherein
- b) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of over about 1.5 osy.

46. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 43 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

- i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.35 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.12 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.1 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~
- iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of

the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.08 inches in the Z axis, ~~or wherein~~ and

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web when the web has a bulk of about 0.07 inches in the Z axis.

47. (canceled)

48. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 43 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 19.07 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~

ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 32.03 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 30.27 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 28.73 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.07 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~

vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 34.63 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and

vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.6 on the top side of the web having a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.

49. (currently amended) The nonwoven web according to Claim 43 wherein the nonwoven web is selected from the group consisting of:

i) the web has a formation index averaging above about 31.6 on the wire side of the web when the web a basis weight of about 6.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~

ii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.03 on the wire side of the web when the web a basis weight of about 2.25 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.09 on the wire side of the web when the web a basis weight of about 2.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

iv) the web has a formation index averaging above about 35.37 on the wire side of

the web when the web a basis weight of about 1.5 osy, ~~or wherein~~

v) the web has a formation index averaging above about 37.15 on the wire side of the web when the web a basis weight of about 1.2 osy, ~~or wherein~~

vi) the web has a formation index averaging above about 38.98 on the wire side of the web when the web a basis weight of about 1.0 osy, ~~or wherein~~ and

vii) the web has a formation index averaging above about 43.76 on the wire side of the web when the web has a basis weight of about 0.75 osy.